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LESLIE L. ESZENYI

I was born in Temesvar, Hungary, on March 4, 1912, from a many centuries old Hungarian noble family. At that time, my father was an official of the local Treasury Department. In a rank of a Secretary.

In 1914, shortly before the outbreak of the World War I, he was transferred to Balassagyarmat, Morthern Hungary, where I began my education with the elementary school.

After having finished the fifth grade of the high school - Junior and Senior grades were kept together at that time in Hungary - I successfully passed the admission examination of a Military High School, which besides the usual civilian education gave as a certain military training also. In 1930, I graduated from this school as first in rank absolving the final examination, called maturity examination, also Baccalaureat, with straight A from every subjects.

I decided to stay on professional military line and enrolled in the only military college in Hungary, called "Ludo-vika Akademia", in Budapest. This college is equivalent to the West Point in the United States. West Point graduates absolving 135 credit/hours during the four year period, we absolved over 190 during the same time. Our class graduated in 1934, and I turned out again as first in rank among my 183 fellow-cadeys, winning the highest available award, the Szechenyi prize.

My first garrison was Budapest where I began my military career with the 1st Royal Hungarian Infantry Regiment as a second-lieutenant. While serving six very hard years with the troops, in 1937 I accomplished a ten-month long communication course and in 1939, a half year long troop psychology course also. As a troop psychologist I had the duty to examine our recruits in order to determine the fittest unit for them in the regiment. In this service, I got very valuable experiences. Also in 1937, I was commanded to the 4th German Infantry Regiment to Kolberg, Ostsee, as an exchange officer because I talk German fluently.

In 1940 I filed an application with the War College, the highest military school giving the necessary education to prospective staff officers. Applicants had to pass an examination seven days and seven nights long, during which period we got the most varied problems to solve at the most unusual time sometimes. E.G., we were alarmed middle in the night and had to rewrite the same problem we got during the day, which took several hours, and without rest we continued the examination the next day for ten to twelve hours.

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I was among the 25 officers who were selected from 125 applicants. In 1942, still as a student of the War College, I was commanded together with my whole class to the Bussian front in order to have real front experiences before graduating from the College. Three of us died, two of my schoolmates were seriously injured. I received a medal. I graduated from the War College with an outstanding final certificate in September 1943, with the rank of a Captain of the Staff.

My first staff assignment was that of a subordinate officer in the 3rd Royal Hungarian Army Headquarters. It was quite unusual that a recently graduated staff of Joer got this position. The rest of my graduated class was exact to Division or to Army corps headquarters.

Beginning 1944, our staff was mobilized and soon we took over command over ten Hungarian and two German divisions before the Carpathians. I was promoted to deputy chief of the operation's department. Because of the delicate political situation which existed between the Hungarian and Berman governments during the last war-year - unwilling satellite complax - and because of the daily worsening front situation, my job requested a continuous combat readiness; a good deal of diplomatic sense, and first of all good nerves.

Since 1942, I was associated with the Hungarian Resistance Movement, the aim of which was to get rid of the Germans as soon as the situation allows, and to prepare for the invasion of Anglo-Saxon forces before the Bolsheviks may arrive at the boundary of our country. While daily risking our lives, we certainly did not know that our thousand-year-old country, the first active anti-communist government in the whole Riddle-European theater, was sold out already to the worst enemy of our race and of the whole human race also, to the Russian-Communist Government. I learned about this fact at the end of the year 1944, when I decided to fight for my people whenever or wherever it will be possible. This was the reason why fought I together with German troops until we were forced out of the ancient Hungarian soil. I learned an unforgettable lesson.

Between 1945-47, I was active in Hungarian refugee camps, first in Pocking, later in Plattling, 'ermany. In the latter camp I was leader of 5,000 refugees, and I had to use all my organising and diplomatic ability to secure the survival for those innocent people. In 1948, I was civilian employee of the "Headquarter European Command, H.Q. Economic Survey Unit. U.S. Army". I worked as a leader of an offensive intelligence group operating in Hungary.

I left the job because of growing German influence in the erganisation, and switched over to refugee work again, becoming the secretary of the World Council of Churches operating field office in Munich-Pasing, Germany. This agency just began its activity and I had the duty to set up the whole office administration, charts, plans, etc. After having finished this task, I left for the United States of America where I arrived in August, 1949.

Being in the States seven days long, without knowing the language of the country, I was assigned by the American Hungarian rederation to be the secretary in charge with the Displaced Person affairs. I knew the terrible situation of my countrymne overseas, so I worked seven days a week, more than ten hours, sometimes continuously, until I got ready in seven months 5,000 cases. It was considered as an almost unbelievable production. In the meantime, I had time to learn the most necessary English.

The Hungarian Reformed Federation of America, a legal reserve benefit society, in 1950 employed me as assistant to the national secretary where I work, also now taking core of general administration, organization and supervising of underwriting activities and I am the manager of our Washington real property.

I am married, having two children here, and two children in Hungary from my previous marriage. I apeak and write English, Hungarian, German. I have some knowledge in the French also.

I am a night student of the South-Eastern University since 1953, and after two more semesters I may get the B.C.S. degree.

I em an American citisen cinco 1954.